

Quid Novi

JTS.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
FACULTE DE DROIT UNIVERSITE MCGILL

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Interview with Professor Irwin Cotler

BRINGING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE: AN ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

by Debbie Raicek

Quid Novi: What is the purpose of the Deschênes Commission of Inquiry on War Crimes?

Prof. Cotler: The presence of Nazi War Criminals in our society is, in the words of Prime Minister Mulroney, "a moral outrage." Indeed, it is this sense of moral outrage, of affront to conscience, which led to the creation of the Deschênes Commission, whose mandate is to take all necessary steps to bring suspected Nazi War Criminals in Canada to justice. Admittedly, it is late in coming, but it is still possible to help "right a historical wrong" and redress a "historical injustice."

Quid Novi: Why now? Why are we starting a process forty years after the Holocaust, particularly when some of these alleged war criminals have been living quietly these past 40 years? Why take revenge now?

Prof. Cotler: The issue, simply put, is not revenge, but justice; moreover, we are bringing people to justice not for what they did or did not do these past 40

years, but for atrocities committed in the Holocaust. The question, however, is one that many Canadians may be asking, and deserves a more detailed -- albeit summary -- statement of reasons as follows.

Fidelity to the Rule of Law

The most compelling consideration is fidelity to the principle of the rule of law; simply put, that murder shall not go unpunished -- that, in particular, the murder of innocents shall not go unpunished. In a sense, the word "war criminal" is somewhat misleading; for we are not talking in the main about the killing of combatants in the prosecution of a war, but about the murder of innocents in the persecution of a race.

Respect for Canadian Citizenship.

The second consideration is taking Canadian citizenship seriously. Those who misrepresented themselves and acquired Canadian citizenship or landed entry or refugee status under false pretenses, should not really be permitted to enjoy that citizenship when, in fact, had we known of their criminality, they would not even have been admitted to

this country, let alone been granted citizenship.

Fidelity to Our International Obligations

The third consideration is fidelity to our international obligations. Ever since World War II ended, both in the United Nations General Assembly and as a signatory to international treaties, we have undertaken to investigate, apprehend, arrest, and bring to justice suspected Nazi war criminals in this country. If we do not do this we are in breach of our international responsibilities, treaty and otherwise.

Fidelity to Holocaust Remembrance

The final point, and it is not an unimportant one, is fidelity to Holocaust remembrance: to those victims who died, to those Canadians who fought the Nazis and on whose behalf we speak. At a time when neo-Naziism is rearing its ugly head again, at a time when there are those who are saying the Holocaust never occurred, not to bring suspected Nazi war criminals to justice will have the effect of vindicating the old Nazis and encouraging the new ones.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Equality Conference

On November 13, 1985 at 7 p.m., Community Affairs and the Law, in cooperation with the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations, presents a panel discussion on the Social and Economic Issues of s.15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The panelists will discuss how the right to equality will affect the day-to-day lives of the communities it seeks to protect. Speakers will be:

Shelagh Day, President, Legal Action and Education Fund for Women,

Anne Adams, Coordinator, Employment and Immigration Canada, Affirmative Action Division

Pierre Gauthier, Counsel, Labour Relations Officer, Conseil du Patronat du Québec,

Guy Adam, Canadian Labour Congress,

Myrtle Bush, Chief, Mohawk Council of Kahnawake,

John Kurien, Past National President, National Association of Canadians of Origins of India.

The panel discussion will take place in the Moot Court. A question period will follow the presentations by the speakers.

A l'Aide

L'équipe de hockey "B" de la faculté a besoin de support moral pour atteindre son objectif de la saison: gagner une partie. Si vous vous ennuyez les dimanches soirs et que vous n'en pouvez plus d'étudier, rendez-vous au McConnell Winter Stadium pour encourager la noble équipe. Prochain match le 17 novembre à 19:15.

Party -- Classe de Première Année

Comme dirait coco le party donné par la classe de prem mercredi dernier était très chouette. Presque toutes les personnalités "in" de la fac étaient présentes. Il y avait beaucoup de monde même s'il s'agissait d'un mercredi soir et on a eu du bon temps. Un ros merci à Maria Battaglia, présidente BCL I pour son travail et au doyen Macdonald pour avoir offert si généreusement un verre à la classe de prem.

To All Students

As you may be aware, it is the policy of this year's LSA Council that it is inappropriate for student organizations to hold student funds in "trust funds". In keeping with this viewpoint, it is our stated objective to reduce the capital fund presently held to our account. Therefore, we request that all students consider seriously how this \$13,000 can best be spent. Proposals can be submitted to the suggestion box in the LSA office.

Thank you very much,
LSA

Attention Women!

The basketball and hockey teams are still looking for members. Please contact Jane Graham (hockey) or Sheila Walsh (basketball) through SAO.

Examination Schedule and Second Term Timetable

Fall Exam Schedules and Winter Term Timetables are available to students and can be picked up at the Student Affairs Office.

PLACEMENT CENTRE

Students interested in competing for a summer articling position in an Australian Law firm should submit their c.v.'s to Mr. André Lemieux, c/o the Admissions Office, prior to November 15, 1985.

Correction: In the Placement Centre colum of 16 October, Vol. VI, No. 7, it was mistakenly reported that Ogilvy, Renault, Ottawa was interested in hiring stagiaires. This item should have read Ogilvy, Renault, Montreal and this is posted in the Centre (Posting #11) as such.

Guest Lecturer

Mr. John Olah of the
Law Society of Ontario

Topic: Cross-Examination

Thursday, November 14
6:45 - 8:00 p.m.
Room 101

Mr. Olah is a very highly respected member of the Toronto Bar and has a special interest in criminal defense work.

All students are invited to attend.

FIRST YEAR PARTY

On behalf of the 1st year class, I would like to thank Dean Macdonald for his generosity in paying for everyone's first drink.

Thanks also to those who attended and participated in making the party a great success.

Maria R. Battaglia
BCL I President

Cont'd on p. 7

Cotler

Cont'd from p. 1

Quid Novi: What about legal retroactivity? From where does Parliament draw its jurisdiction?

Prof. Cotler: The "retroactivity" argument is as much a misnomer as it is misleading. For there is nothing "retroactive" about war crimes or crimes against humanity, and their prosecutions are invocations rather than breaches of international criminal law.

First, war crimes, or the crimes of which these suspected Nazi war criminals stand accused, were always criminal under international law and the Law of Nations. That is to say, these crimes were criminal under international law and indeed were codified in the Hague Convention of 1899 and 1907 respecting the laws and customs of war and providing thereby protection for civilians and prisoners of war. Accordingly, there was then, and now exists, a series of solemn, binding international treaties, and those solemn, binding international treaties were those that always made criminal the acts of which suspected Nazi war criminals stand accused.

Second, war crimes were always criminal according to the conduct of the Law of Nations. In a word, murder was always criminal. It was not an act that suddenly became an offence after the Second World War.

Third, the international military tribunals of Nuremberg codified these principles. More particularly, the Charter of the International Military Tribunal expressly provided that tribunals would have jurisdiction over war

crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace. When the Nuremberg defendants sought to argue that the acts of which they were accused were not illegal under the 1907 Hague Convention, or were not illegal according to the Law of Nations, those allegations were summarily rejected at the time.

Fourth, the War Crimes Act and the Geneva Conventions Act, passed pursuant to international law at the time, were in fact a codification of existing law, rather than the creation of new law. They provided a forum for the prosecution of offenses already existing, rather than legislation for the creation of new offenses.

A succinct summation of the above as applicable to the Canadian situation was given by Judge Michael Musmanno in the Einsatzgruppen case:

"No one can claim with the slightest pretense of reasoning that there is any taint of ex post factoism in the law of murder."

That is to say, murder was always murder -- now and forever. Indeed, one goes back even to Grotius, the father of international law, and one can find this statement there.

Fifth, Canadian law in general and, in particular, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, represents what might be called a domestic constitutional codification of this principle. Indeed, paragraph 11(g) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms may be said not only to authorize prosecution, but if one were to look at the "travaux préparatoires," it indeed anticipated prosecution, and it was, therefore, included for that purpose.

Finally, Canadian law in general and its statute law in particular, and expressly the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, must be interpreted in such a way as not to violate international law. There is a presumption that Parliament does not intend to violate international law in the enactment of these statutes.

One would also say that even in the absence of these express statutes -- the Canadian Geneva Conventions Act and the Canadian War Crimes Act -- Parliament would have jurisdiction to prosecute under what might be called international criminal or common law, under the universality principle of jurisdiction. In a word, war criminals, as all the case law has shown, are hostes humani generis, the enemies of mankind. Just as no express law is needed for the prosecution of pirates, no express law is needed for the prosecution of war criminals.

Quid Novi: Some say this is primarily a Jewish issue. How is this the concern of the Canadian people?

Prof. Cotler: This is not a Jewish issue, or an ethnic issue, but as both the Prime Minister and Opposition have put it, an issue of human rights -- indeed, one of the most profound issues of human rights in our time. If we convert this into an "ethnic" quarrel or worse, a Jewish v. Ukrainian configuration, we not only trivialize but distort the issue.

Admittedly, the Jews as victims -- and Jews were not the only victims -- have a moral stake in the outcome -- but as part of a

Cont'd on p. 4

LIBERTE D'EXPRESSION

Le 31 octobre dernier, le professeur Irwin Cotler de la faculté de droit donnait une conférence intitulée: "Extremism -- Freedom of Speech or Freedom From Speech". Comme on le sait il s'agit là d'une question qui, depuis l'avènement de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés, a refait surface d'une façon un peu spectaculaire suite aux affaires Zundel et Keegstra.

Le prof. Cotler a fourni une réponse à cette question. A ceux qui veulent se prévaloir de l'art.2 de la Charte pour prêcher une liberté d'expression absolue, il réplique: on ne peut pas ne pas admettre que l'expression d'opinions racistes et malicieuses pose une menace

pour l'existence même d'une société libre et démocratique. Ainsi, l'art.1 de la Charte nous permet-il de restreindre sinon d'interdire ce genre d'expression.

Evidemment, cela soulève certaines difficultés dont la plus importante sans doute est de discerner la propagande pernicieuse de celle qui ne l'est pas. C'est dans ce but que le Prof. Cotler a proposé une dizaine de critères d'identification. On doit déterminer, entre autres choses, si les opinions exprimées visent certains individus ou groupes particuliers, en font des victimes (de préjugés), menacent leur intégrité; et encore si elles promouvoient la haine, minent les principes

d'égalité établis par la Charte, sont contraires aux principes des lois adoptées en vertu d'un engagement canadien à des ententes internationales portant sur les droits de l'homme.

Qui plus est le prof. Cotler a souligné que les récents développements ouest-européens en matière de droits de la personne méritent une attention sérieuse. Il a conclu en proposant un élargissement de la juridiction de la Commission des Droits de la personne, qui lui permettrait d'entendre la majorité des causes reliées à la liberté d'expression, et qui allègerait la charge des tribunaux en matière de droit criminel.

N. Perrault
BCL I

Cotler Cont'd from p. 3

shared commitment with other Canadians to help bring Nazi war criminals to justice. Nor is the nationality of Nazi war criminals at issue. Our credo must be -- no collective indictments of any kind. We seek justice, not labels; criminals -- not communities; individuals -- not nationalities. The legacy of Nuremberg -- of "Never Again" -- is both an exhortation to justice and a warning against injustice.

Quid Novi: Why is the Deschênes Commission concerned only with Nazi war criminals? What about other war criminals?

Prof. Cotler: The short and factual answer is that

this is the mandate of the Deschênes Commission, but some will say that this begs the question -- why "single out" Nazi war criminals? Why not bring all war criminals to justice? We should bring all war criminals to justice -- that, indeed, is the universal message and ultimate legacy of Nuremberg. It would however be wrong to argue that if we do not bring all war criminals to justice, we should therefore not be engaged in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice; rather, it should be the other way around -- if we don't bring Nazi war criminals to justice we will have no moral or legal standing to bring any other war criminals to justice now, or in the future. In a word, we will have created a Statute of Immunity for

war criminals generally.

Finally, both Nuremberg and the bringing of suspected Nazi war criminals to justice in legal proceedings in other jurisdictions i.e., West Germany, Netherlands, U.S. etc., have identified the distinguishable character of Holocaust crimes, and cautioned against trivialization or distortion of the racist mass murder, i.e. if everything is a holocaust, nothing is a Holocaust. This is not, of course, to trivialize or distort other instances of international criminality. It is only to recognize the legacy of the Holocaust and the Nuremberg precedent for what it is -- a call to all members of the international community to bring Nazi war criminals to justice and to answer for their crimes.

CLARIFYING A MOOT POINT

by Brigitte Catellier

On Wednesday, October 30th, the Junior Moot Court Board met with first-year students and announced the cancellation of voluntary moots this year. One week later, on Wednesday, November 6th, the Chairman of the MCB met with first year students and announced that voluntary moots will be held in January. The purpose of this article is to clarify the misunderstanding that occurred between the MCB and first year students, and to give information on the facts surrounding the two decisions based on the views expressed by the Chairman of the MCB, members of the Junior MCB and the presidents of BCL I and LLB I.

The MCB includes eight junior members and eight senior members, one of whom is the Chairman of the Board. Their advisor is Prof. D. Stevens. At the beginning of every fall semester, eight junior members are elected and they become senior members the following year. These junior members organize first year moots.

This year, the election of the eight junior members took place rather late in the semester. This is due to the fact that Prof. Stevens had decided to undertake major reforms in the mooting process. The purpose of these reforms is to correct problems which have surfaced year after year. Their aim is to alleviate tension, establish uniform format and include an instructional component in the program.

A decision pertaining to voluntary moots is normally made by the Junior MCB. The decision to cancel voluntary moots was made by Prof. Stevens and the

Chairman of the MCB, Andrew Foti, who were faced with junior members who were eager to work on reform but who viewed voluntaries as being in the way at this point.

The major problems which followed the first meeting were due both to the content of that decision and, to a greater extent, to the handling of that decision by the Junior MCB. According to Maria Battaglia, president of BCL I, most first year students who had attended that first meeting did not clearly understand what was going on. As a matter of fact, there had been a misunderstanding. What were the reasons for this? First of all, no senior members were present at the meeting. When asked why he did not attend, Andrew Foti responded that he was attending a meeting concerning Advanced Moots. He also acknowledged that the junior members lacked background information and did not have all the reform ideas at hand. In other words, the junior members announced that voluntary moots were cancelled, though they had not made the decision and they lacked sufficient information to accurately represent the new position to first year students. This was acknowledged by both class presidents who stated that some first year students believed something was being taken away from them, and they had not properly understood that they were also being given something. In fact, first year students did not know exactly what voluntary moots were.

The key issue however is not so much the fact that voluntary moots were being cancelled but rather that first year students did not have any say in the deci-

sion. During the meeting, they were told that they were not represented on the MCB because they do not know anything about the mooting process. It is to be noted that there were two reactions to this argument. Some students objected to this as being unfair. Their main argument is that the MCB does not take their opinions into consideration. This will be discussed further. Other students agree and state that they do not have a say in many other decisions in the faculty and the purpose of these committees is to delegate decision-making to those people who have the required knowledge to do so.

Something must be said also as to the reasons for cancelling voluntary moots. The Junior MCB stated two reasons. First of all, as explained by Andrew Foti, who has been watching the program for three years and actively involved in it for two years, it is almost impossible to change the program while administering it. Hence, the junior members could not both prepare the voluntary moots and work on the reforms. Secondly, the MCB took into consideration the fact that first year students had a number of assignments and mid-term examinations to prepare. In view of this argument it should be noted that the task of a junior member includes neither voluntary moots nor reform proposals. They are only obliged to prepare first year moots. Reform is a major task for them; it is a task which will solely benefit the first year students. They are working for first year students, not against them.

ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

by Joani Tannenbaum

The closing conference of the symposium on "An Arms Race in Outer Space: Could Treaties Prevent It?", was held in McGill's Moot Court, October 31--November 1. The conference considered the form such a treaty would take were it ever to materialize. The six panelists, Dr. He Quzhi (People's Republic of China); Dr. A. Kozyrev (U.S.S.R.); Mr. Kent Stansberry (U.S.A.); General Pierre H. Gallois (France); and Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Böckstiegel, were not in complete agreement as to whether the treaty should be bilateral (i.e. between the United States and the Soviet Union), or multilateral. They did however ar-

rive at a consensus: if a treaty that had as its goal the prevention of an outer space arms race were to succeed, it would have to meet two conditions.

First, it is imperative that an effective means of verification be provided for, in order to ensure that participatory states were abiding by the convention. Measures such as spontaneous on-site inspections would act as a deterrent to non-compliance. Second, the drafting of the treaty would need to be extremely precise. In a matter that affects all of humanity, there is precious little room for ambiguity.

While it was held that a ban on all weapons is pre-

ferable, it was recognized that this goal is not only idealistic, but highly unrealistic. A progressive approach would be to eliminate the more dangerous weapons that most contribute to instability, for example offensive weapons such as the large, land-based ICBM's.

It was also recognized that treaties in themselves could not prevent an arms race, but are a step towards the fruition of this goal. In a concluding remark, Prof. Böckstiegel noted, "Modest steps achieved are better than large steps envisaged and failed."

Moot Point Cont'd from p. 5

A prompt recovery of the situation was initiated by Sheryl Miller and Gary Polachek, members of the junior MCB, who called a meeting which took place the next day. By majority vote, voluntary moots were scheduled for January. This was the result of the strong dissatisfaction of the members of the Board with the decision to cancel the moots. They agreed to have some junior members work on the voluntary moots while the others work on reform. It is to be noted that the first decision still stands: there will be no voluntary moots this semester. The reasons for that decision remain. The reason behind the second decision was the opinion of the majority of the members

that voluntary moots should take place. This was confirmed by the opinions of first year students who, according to David Morley, president of LLB I, feel there is a great deal to be gained by voluntary moots. As stated by Andrew Foti, "The MCB does value the opinions of first year students. It considers their opinions very much and the second decision is a testimony of that fact. Furthermore, the MCB plans to consult first year students as to reform initiatives for which proposals are just beginning to be drafted.

The second meeting reviewed the misunderstanding and explained the rationale for the decision. Andrew Foti apologized to first year students for the inconvenience and announced

the decision of the MCB to hold moots in January. The problems will be distributed in the upcoming weeks and the oral pleadings will take place in the first week of the second semester. Last year, students had a week-end to prepare for the voluntaries, whereas this year that period was greatly extended. Moreover, the problems concern solely materials in the casebooks, which will be covered by students in studying for their exams.

It is beyond doubt that the first meeting did not take place in an ideal manner. It must however be acknowledged that this was corrected without delay. The last word goes to Elias Benhamoul who concluded that any harm done has been undone.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

In reference to a re-knowned commercial-corporate lawyer, it was said: "...the man is a bit idiosyncratic, but then who am I to say..."

Prof. S.A. Scott
Banking
Nov. 1, 1985

"In an ideal world, the exam is just one little stop on the road to your destination...like Plattsburgh on the road to New York."

Prof. Mass
Security on Immoveables
Nov. 6, 1985

Announcements Cont'd from p. 2

An Encouraging Thought

by Vicki Sterling and
and Giuliana Pendenza

For those of you who are busy with activities and adventures outside the faculty and perhaps starting to feel guilty about having neglected your school work, allow us to put your conscience at ease.

According to W. Scott, "a lawyer without history or literature is a mechanic; with some knowledge of these...an architect."

If this was true in 1906, when it was written, then surely almost eighty years later it still applies. Now, aren't you glad that you have an undergraduate degree?

Yearbook

This year the Old McGill Yearbook will have a section devoted to student clubs and organizations. If you are interested in having your group represented, you must submit your information (approximately 3/4 to 1 1/2 typed pages) to room 406-407 at the Student Union Building (3480 McTavish) by Dec. 2, 1985 or drop it off at the Student Society desk.

The information requested is the following:

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies

SCHOLARSHIPS

Full scholarships for Graduate Studies in Law at Cambridge University are being offered for the 1986/87 academic year. These scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students registered in the 1985/86 Bar Admission Courses, in their articling year, or who will be graduating in law from a Canadian University in 1986.

Each scholarship is for one year and will cover tuition fees at Cambridge, a monthly contribution towards living costs, as well as travel allowance for air transportation from residence in Canada and return.

- 1) How your group benefits McGill students
- 2) The activities/events you have planned
- 3) A black and white photograph of your group and group events
- 4) A list of members
- 5) Any message you may have for your group or McGill University.

If your group plans major events later on in the year which you wish to illustrate, you may make special arrangements by phoning 392-8990 by November 15, 1985.

Applications with photograph of applicant must be received by December 15, 1985.

(There is no formal application form.)

Applicants must apply in writing to:
Boris Krivy, Esq., Q.C.
Scholarship Secretary
Canadian Institute for
Advanced Legal Studies
Osgoode Hall
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N5
(416-965-0417)

Detailed information has been posted on bulletin boards and in the placement office.

On Thursday, October 31st, somebody hit a beige car (Horizon) which was in the parking lot of the main entrance of the Faculty of Law, at 3644 Peel St. The person who hit the car left a note containing a false name and phone number. It is very probable that one or more persons saw the collision and I would very much appreciate any information those persons could give me. Please leave information at SAO, in the students' mailbox under "N".

Thank you,
Nathalie

RIVIERES DES PRAIRIES: A TEST OF RIGHTS IN THE CHARTER

by Teresa Scassa

The mentally handicapped, as a class of persons, are stereotyped and stigmatized by our society, and this adds to their powerlessness and vulnerability. Extra support and special vigilance from stronger groups of individuals are thus required in order to extend to them the rights and freedoms guaranteed to "every person" by the Charter.

This was the message of Kathleen Ruff, who addressed a group of interested students on November 6 at the invitation of Women and the Law. Editor of the Canadian Human Rights Advocate and activist for the rights of the mentally handicapped, Ruff focused her discussion on the recent inquest into conditions at the Rivière-des-Prairies Psychiatric Institute.

This past summer a group of concerned parents of RDP patients brought to public attention instances of horrific physical and psychological abuse of patients. One hundred and ninety-one affidavits were received by Social Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette, detailing cases of patients having been tied to chairs and beds for hours at a time, or locked up in isolation for long periods. In addition, nine young adults at RDP have died in the last four years, largely due to living conditions at the Institute.

Ruff pointed out some of the serious difficulties faced by the parents who went to court in an attempt to effect change in an institution which had been hostile to earlier attempts at nonlitigious input.

As in all litigation to protect the rights of institutionalized persons, standing became a key issue. The interdicted persons in this case fell under the jurisdiction of the "curateur publique" who declined to initiate proceedings on their behalf. Fortunately, in the RDP case, the court granted standing to the parents' group. Standing, however, is useless without funding to continue the fight. While tax dollars paid for the Institution's lawyers, the government refused to provide either a lawyer or funding for the parents' group. As a result, a huge balance of legal fees remains outstanding.

Access to information was also a crucial issue. According to Ruff, the role of the "curateur publique" quickly became used to protect the "confidentiality" of the patients. Yet without this "confidential" information, a full inquest could not be effective. Ruff blamed the institutional system in which people with a vested interest in protecting the system (those running the institution) also control access to pertinent information. She pointed out

that Quebec shares with Alberta the dubious distinction of having the worst program of institutional care in Canada. She suggested that consideration be given to moving away from the institutional model in order to ensure more acceptable standards of care.

The process of change is arduous. Parents initiating the action against RDP faced a great deal of personal abuse. Ruff stressed the need to respond to the issues raised by minority groups rather than responding on an ad-hominem bases to the group itself.

In addition, Ruff questioned the differences between what laws like the Charter say, and how they are actually applied. She argued that the greatest protection should be provided to those who are most powerless. Her plea was that those with a voice and a concern for fundamental human rights issues should undertake to act for those persons unable to speak for themselves.

* * *

The Women and the Law will be maintaining contact with Ruff with a view to providing support and assistance. Anyone interested in becoming involved in this cause should contact the group by leaving a note in the SAO mailbox.

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Rédactrice-en-chef

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I HAVE BEEN A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

by David Patterson

The puck slides into the defensive end. With quickness, raw power and elegance a black sweated skater cradles the puck and begins moving up the ice. A snap of the wrists, and the puck sails the width of the ice to a fast-breaking teammate. With an awe-inspiring stride, the forward speeds over the blueline, the opposing defensewoman sensing impending doom. A head fake to the right, a sudden dash to the left... the deceptive forward draws the helpless opponent to the side. A graceful drop-pass and the puck glides to the stick of a following linemate. In one motion, a slapshot sizzles past the defenseless goaltender. The twine bulges. The FORCE OF LAW strikes again.

A sublime mental image, isn't it? From an objective point of view, let's meet the cast of characters responsible for this poetry in motion:

Jane "Captain" Graham (Early Season Rating ****). Reputedly the coach's pet, Jane has come into her own this season. With that perfect mixture of aggressive defense and "soft hands" offense. Jane's improved play ensures the FORCE OF LAW a successful year. Of course, we have to keep Jane out of the dishwater.

Debbie "Dunc" Duncan: (ESR ****). For those who would doubt the immense impact of ex-coach Randal during his tenure at Old Chancellor Day Hall, it is suggested they first take in a session of the Dunc on ice. "Forecheck, Backcheck, Paycheque" is what THE VEIN was fond of say-

ing; Dunc's play exemplifies this golden rule to the max.

Anne "I'm Going Back to Massachusetts" Spafford (ESR ****). A top draft choice of the Boston Bruins, Anne is just killing time waiting for the call from the big club. A major gate attraction, Anne is responsible for the large increase of male fans attending this year's games. Speaking with her agent, your source was informed that Anne's posters (sans helmet) will be in local stores for the Christmas season.

Holly "Burning the Candle at Both Ends" Nickel (****). What with starring for the football team, the Law Journal, the Legal Aid Clinic, regular classes and a suitor for each night of the week, one wonders how Holly is able to remain such a laid-back yet effective performer on the ice. Whatever her secret, this vivacious blond is a genuine champion, the FORCE OF LAW her chief beneficiary.

Esme "I Score More Than Brother Nick" Vlahos (ESR ****). Living up to her nickname, Esme assuredly scores more than brother Nick, both on or off the ice. Also responsible for the large increase in male spectators at this year's games, Esme appears to have laboured well in working to improve her game this summer. With a higher goals per shot ratio than Gretzky, Esme remains unlaunched by the media pressure necessarily accompanying such a feat.

Del "Socrates" Daignault (ESR ****). Undoubtedly the player most concerned with the "justice" of the

game, Socrates' natural aptitude for hockey stands as a monument to her upbringing as a bona fide Albertan rink rat. Reminiscent in style to Beliveau, the rangy forward has seemingly unlimited potential. This observer is watching for big things to come.

Louise "That's Lou, not Boo" Haberl (****). Talented, consistent, determined, omnipresent, great, gorgeous: these are the adjectives coming to the minds of knowledgeable fans when describing the heart and soul of the FORCE OF LAW. Asked for the secret of her success on the ice, Lou replied "I'm all brawn, no brilliance." As to the brawn there's no doubt; this observer doubts that there isn't some brilliance along the way.

Kathy "The Fish" Fisher (ESR ****). An early season hold out (à la Michel Goulet), the Fish is back in the fold. Combining with Lou on defense, the FORCE OF LAW defensive zone is an impregnable fortress. Yet Kathy is also renowned for her aggressive "go for it" approach to offense. With quick acceleration, the Fish plays the transitional game as well as anyone, bar none.

Janet "O" Henchey (ESR ****). First came Tony "O"; then came Ramb "O". Now meet Janet "O", the shut-out goaltender. Rumoured to have never played between the pipes before, her acrobatic performance has left some knowledgeable spectators wondering whether the Men's "A" Team Mike Laliberté should begin searching for new employment. With the reflexes of Terry Sachuk and the tenacity of Billy Smith, Janet was born to play net.

Q.C. AT THE BAT

(with apologies to E.L. Thayer)

The outlook wasn't brilliant for our haggard crew that day;
Our shortstop was hungover and the coach too weak to play.
The centerfielder showed up late and our pitcher did the same
But we got a team together to play one last softball game.

There was no chance for the playoffs; we had had a dismal year;
But "Buck" Hanchet still had not lost heart, and drew his fielders near;
"Now listen team" he said to us, "there's no need for us to fear;
"If we can just get through this game, I'll buy you all a beer!"

Well, that was all it took, it seems: such spirit did we show!

We won the toss and took the field. "All right!" we cheered, "Let's go!"
But though we gave our darnedest (and you can't ask for more than that)
They were seven runs ahead before we first came up to bat.

Yet we had a super line-up: Doug, then Sheila for a start;
Mark was third, to load the bases, after which Doug's roomie Bart
Would hit a grand-slam homer, of that there was no doubt...
So imagine our surprise to soon be scoreless with three out!

Undaunted we resumed our places on the field once

more
To face again this powerhouse which scored and scored and scored.
They banged them out to left and right, for them we were no match.
A curse must have been on us, for we could not seem to catch!

We could have been the Bad News Bears, we made so many gaffes,
But we kept our sense of humour, and had just as many laughs.
For though our team was not one known to score run after run,
We had the most esprit de corps, and boy did we have fun!

We missed you, Vince and Swammy; could have used some RBIs;
Stephan and Sophie ditto, for those grounders and pop-flies.
Despite great efforts from the rest, we just were out of luck.
Dale, Richard, Dave and Sandra sighed, while Sylvie just said "f---".

That game we lost, you may have guessed: of six we won but two,
Though we had a lot of talent and some Spanish imports too.
We had strength on all the bases, and much power at the plate...
Why things didn't come together, we can only speculate.

Oh somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children cheer;
But for us, just like those Expos, this was another "building year".

"Dilone" Daignault
(The Front Office)

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